

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are allowed. However, the Examiner has rejected claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikushima et al. (US 6,300,523) and further in view of Catallo et al. (US 6,180,845).

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that applicants were correct in their argument that Ikushima et al. conducts a process in which hydrogen is never produced by the reaction, but stated that independent claim 8 did not require or recite that water-derived hydrogen is formed by the process. Applicants have amended claim 8 to include the production of water-derived hydrogen. Therefore, claim 8 should now be in allowable form.

Appl. No. 10/510,972
Reply dated Sept. 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2006

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or suggested Examiner's amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-3195.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 7, 2006

/manette dennis/

Manette Dennis (Reg. No. 30,623)
Ostrager Chong Flaherty & Broitman, P.C.
250 Park Avenue, Suite 825
New York, New York 10177-0899
Tel: 212 681-0600
Fax: 212-681-0300
mdennis@ocfbllaw.com